

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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## For Immediate Release

### Redlands Youth to Promote Safe Driving Among Peers

Friday Night Live youth at Redlands East Valley High School want their peers to be traffic safe, especially with graduation approaching. To get the word out, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health in collaboration with youth and the California Highway Patrol are promoting the message that "Friends ask friends to slow down, buckle up and never drink and drive." A final "Spread the Word" event will take place at the school on June 6, 2008.

Car crashes remain the leading cause of injury and death among teens. Speeding, not wearing a seat belt, and drinking and driving put teens at risk for serious injury and death. Teens continue to be overrepresented in fatal crashes. Between 2003 and 2006, 2,093 teens died in motor vehicle collisions statewide. Of these fatalities, 222 were in San Bernardino County. Almost 50 percent of youth in fatal crashes were not wearing their seatbelts, and 15 percent of these drivers had been drinking at the time of the crash.

This project is funded by a grant to the California Friday Night Live Partnership from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information call (909) 387-6288.

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